



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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EASTERN REGION

May 5, 2000

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Doug Rosenkranc
Watermaster, District 34
P.O. Box 53
Mackay, ID 83257

Dear Doug:

It certainly appears at this point in time that surface water supplies will be tight in the Big Lost basin this year. The Department is already getting inquiries from people whose rights may never be filled this year. While, I believe there are solutions to water supply problems in Water District 34, those solutions require a level of community cooperation that currently appears to not be possible. Consequently, some water users in Water District 34 may lose some crop production this year.

I was asked yesterday if it would be possible to temporarily trade Mackay storage for a well right. This is very difficult to accomplish in time using the standard processes of transfers and exchanges. However, under the States Water Banking provisions I believe it might be possible for a well owner to acquire stored water from the Big Lost Irrigation District and then rent his water right through the State Water Bank this year. Assuming there are a two people who could cooperate in making this work it might provide a mechanism to keep a few farmers in business this summer.

I hope this answers the questions you had about this opportunity. If you have other questions not answered here give me a call.

Very truly yours,

Ronald D. Carlson
Regional Manager